

# **Indiana State Board of Nursing**

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## **Education Subcommittee Meeting June 18, 2008**

### Attendees:

Marcia Laux  
Connie McIntosh  
Mervin Helmuth  
Pam Jeffries  
Betsey Lee  
Ernie Klein  
Nancy Dillard  
Mindy Yoder  
Esther Acree  
Marcia Miller  
Phyllis Lewis  
Judy Halstead  
Marijane Smallwood  
Sean Gorman  
Michelle Hines

### **1. Introductions**

- 2. DEU Model Program Update and Discussion:** Dr. Jeffries reported that she is planning on implementing three pilot locations this fall 2008 academic session at the Indiana University School of Nursing. The program is designed to structure a stable learning environment between the clinical staff as preceptors, the faculty, and the participating students. The concept of the Dedicated Education Unit is being adapted from the successful experience of Educators using the model at the University Of Portland School Of Nursing. Other Indiana schools are reportedly exploring the DEU strategy. The three pilot clinical settings in place this fall will utilize the Med/Surg setting. The plan for using DEUs calls for integrating the program as an alternative while keeping traditional clinical settings. The IU School of Nursing will also conduct workshops for the clinical preceptors on their role in the DEU model and the expectations for working with students. Dr. Jeffries is not requesting any Board action at this time, but is providing this information to keep the Board apprised of this new approach to clinical instruction in Indiana.

### **3. Previous Discussion Items Follow-Up**

- a. **Faculty to Student Ratios:** In Indiana, the maximum faculty to student ratio for the coordination of clinical preceptorships is 1 to 10. Only one other state permits a higher ratio, at 1 to 12. Subcommittee members discussed the merits of a lower ratio, but there was general concern that even a 1 to 8 ratio is potentially too restrictive and would require additional part-time faculty. Many units are already limited to smaller faculty to student ratios due to space constraints. Marcia Laux reports that there isn't much difference

between 1 to 8 and 1 to 10 in terms of student experience. The consensus among subcommittee members is that the current requirement is appropriate.

- b. **Preceptor Requirements:** Marijane Smallwood presented information gathered with Yvonne Culpepper and Connie McIntosh. Their research showed that many institutions did not realize the 3 year experiential requirement for preceptors. The concern is that this requirement is restrictive for smaller facilities. Other institutions were under the impression that a preceptor must be Bachelor's prepared (Currently, the only requirements for a clinical preceptor are that the preceptor be an RN with at least 3 years experience). There were several suggestions for how to address the preceptorship qualifications requirements, with either ensuring competent preceptors or widening the pool of potential preceptors as the primary focus. As an alternative to the current 3 years experience requirement, it was proposed that RNs with 1 year experience and certification be permitted to serve as preceptors. Refining the definition of "preceptor" was also discussed. Finally, requiring preceptors to have at least the same level of education as students they are working with was considered, but concern about prohibiting experienced and talented ASN prepared RN's from serving as preceptors to BSN students was raised. This discussion will be continued at the next Education Subcommittee meeting.
  - c. **Faculty Qualifications:** Judy Halstead will bring information to the next Education Subcommittee meeting.
  - d. **Simulation Clinical Hours:** Mindy Yoder presented information about the lack of simulation regulation by State Boards of Nursing. The Subcommittee discussed the use of different kinds of simulations for different purposes, and examined a broad definition of simulation prepared by the NCSBN for potential incorporation in Indiana's rules. This discussion will be continued at the next Education Subcommittee meeting.
4. **New Business:** All new business is carried over to the next Education Subcommittee meeting, tentatively set for July 17, 2008.

For further information, please contact:

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